

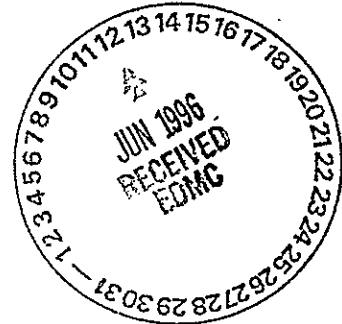


STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1315 W. 4th Avenue • Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018 • (509) 735-7581

May 16, 1996

Mr. Roger Freeberg
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Mr. Freeberg:

Re: Current Status of Environmental Analytical Laboratory

It has come to the attention of the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) that the Environmental Analytical Laboratory (EAL) is either undergoing closure or is slated for closure in the near future. As this laboratory was expected to be used for a wide range of environmental restoration projects on the Hanford Site, Ecology is requesting information as to EAL's status. Specifically, we are requesting a response to the following questions:

- 1) What is the current status of EAL? Is EAL to be completely closed or are some analyses still to be done at the facility? If so, what analyses are projected to remain?
- 2) What laboratory is going to assume the work formerly planned for EAL and does this laboratory/laboratories maintain sufficient capacity to meet the expected demand? For example, will analytical needs for the Environmental Remediation Disposal Facility's waste acceptance criteria be met? What is the expected demand for these laboratories over the next three fiscal years? Are any TPA Milestones to be impacted by this decision?
- 3) Ecology is aware of several programs at Hanford which would benefit greatly from this type of analytical equipment. Additionally, Ecology strongly supports the application of this analytical capability towards advancing the characterization and remediation of the Hanford Site. Therefore, Ecology is interested in the final destination of this equipment and how it will be used. What is its current location and what plans are being made for its final disposition? If the equipment is not currently being used and the final disposition has not been decided, how will the disposition of this equipment be decided and what procedure will be used?

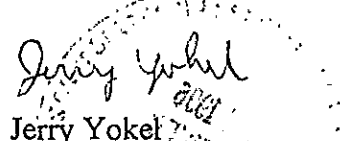
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Please respond to these questions by May 31, 1996. If you have questions, contact either of us at (509) 736-3009 (Jerry Yokel) or (509) 736-3018 (Alex Stone).

Sincerely,



Jerry Yokel
Perimeter Area Senior Chemist
Nuclear Waste Program



Alex Stone
200 Area Senior Chemist
Nuclear Waste Program

JY/AS:mf

cc: Robert (Paul) Carter, USDOE
Joan Kessner, BHI
Administrative Record: Environmental Restoration